

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6260

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2428

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN UNCTAD YO

SUBJ: UNCTAD IV

REF: STATE 78290

SUMMARY: EMBOFF SPOKE APR 9 WITH LJUBISA SEKULIC, DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC) OF THE FSFA'S OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ON YUGOSLAV PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD IV. END SUMMARY.

1. SEKULIC SAID THE TWO MAIN ISSUES AT NAIROBI WOULD BE (A) LDC FOREIGN DEBT, AND (B) THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES. ON LDC DEBT, HE SAID THAT UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, AN LDC THAT IS EFFECTIVELY BANKRUPT IS PUT AT THE MERCY OF THE CONSORTIUM FORMED TO HANDLE ITS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND, IN PRACTICAL TERMS, HAS TO SURRENDER A PORTION OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY. HE HOPED UNCTAD IV COULD FIND A METHOD TO AVOID THIS IN THE FUTURE AND MENTIONED A FORMULA INVOLVING CANCELLATION OF SOME OR ALL OFFICIAL DEBT COMBINED WITH A RESCHEDULING OF COMMERCIAL DEBT. ON THE INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM HE REITERATED YUGOSLAV SUPPORT FOR ATTACKING ALL RAW MATERIALS PROBLEMS TOGETHER (INCLUDING

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INDEXATION), AS OPPOSED TO THE CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH ADVOCATED

BY US AND OTHER DCS.

2. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL, SEKULIC FEELS THAT UNCTAD IS THE NATURAL BODY THROUGH WHICH ANY CONTINUING NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THE CIEC SESSIONS-- WHICH ARE ON APPROXIMATELY THE SAME SUBJECTS AND INVOLVE THE SAME PEOPLE--DILUTE OR MASK THE FUNCTION OF UNCTAD. HE ASKED FOR US SUPPORT ON AN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER WHICH GOY FEELS WILL STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION, I.E., THE "OPEN-ENDING" OF THE UNCTAD BOARD. BY REQUIRING NATIONS TO INFORM THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT OF THEIR DESIRE TO BE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD BEFORE A PARTICULAR MEETING BEGINS, AND BY MAKING BOARD MEMBERSHIP AUTOMATIC UPON SUCH APPLICATION. SEKULIC FEELS THAT THE PRESTIGE FACTOR WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ONLY THOSE NATIONS REALLY INTERESTED IN THE ISSUES IN QUESTION WILL APPLY. AT PRESENT, HE SAYS, NATIONS OFTEN MAKE GREAT EFFORTS TO GET ON THE BOARD, BUT THEREAFTER SHOW LITTLE INTEREST IN THE BOARD'S OPERATIONS BEYOND THEIR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP.

3. GOY IS NOT IN FAVOR OF A G-77 SECRETARIAT, BUT WOULD SUPPORT A SMALL SERVICE ORGANIZATION TO HANDLE STRICTLY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS.

4. ON A PERIPHERAL MATTER, EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER ARABS WOULD BRING UP ISRAEL ISSUE AT NAIROBI. SEKULIC SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THEY MIGHT, BUT YUGOSLAV POSITION WOULD BE THAT UNCTAD IS NOT THE PROPER FORUM FOR SUCH ISSUES. SILBERMAN

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